

THE MARIPOSA

The Official Newsletter of the Filipino Cursillo Community Diocese of Oakland

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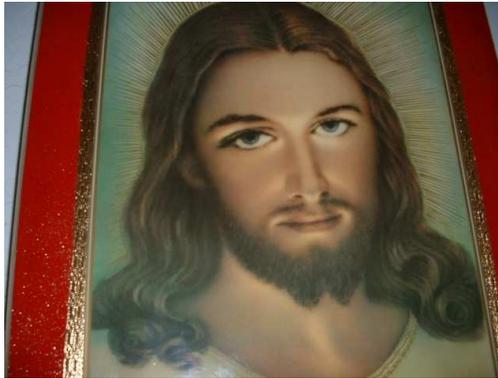
July 2011

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HISTORY OF THE FILIPINO CURSILLO DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

By Myrla Raymundo, MBA



In 1972, the Filipino Cursillo came to the East Bay. Fr. **Greg Vinuya, Benny Ruiz, Jose Calub and Larry Gapay**, who took their Cursillo in the Philippines, organized this Cursillo movement here in Alameda County. Cursillo No. 1 through 3 were held at St. Mary's Church in Oakland. Fr. **Loy Baltazar** followed with his direction of Cursillo Nos. 4 and 5 using the original Cursillo team of **Brothers Benny Ruiz, Jose Calub and Larry Gapay**.

Fr. Paul Maher was designated the first Spiritual Director of the Filipino Cursillo in the Diocese of Oakland. When Fr. **Paul Nourie** was assigned to St. Mary's Parish, he took over as the Spiritual Director for the Filipino Cursillo from 1974 through 1982. After Fr. Nourie was transferred to another parish, **Sister Felicia Sarati** single-handedly guided the community

The Filipino Cursillo developed its own character, yet could interchange team members with the "Anglo" Cursillos, since they have common workshop roots and are conducted in the English language. The Cursillo weekend is a huge assembly of Cursillistas. They attend the candlelight ceremony to greet candidates on the first night of their Cursillo, which the Filipinos consider one of the high points of the weekend. The same congregation of Cursillistas join the early morning Mananita and the Clausura celebration.

The growth of the Filipino Cursillo became significant in the mid-70 as some improvements were instituted. For example, shorter rollos were emphasized to give the candidates more quiet time for reflections and “Marriage Talk” became an integral part of the weekend.

To date, more than 4,000 have graduated from around 79 Cursillo weekends. From these graduates, teams were formed to perpetuate team (group) reunions. Teams come from different geographical locations in the Diocese of Oakland. The frequency of group reunions ranges from once a week to once a month. Ultreyas are held once a month in different assigned churches, presently, at the Cathedral in Oakland.

The Cursillo Working Committee, which became known as the Filipino Cursillo Board, now the Secretariat, was formed in 1973 under the guidance of **Fr. Dan Danielson** and was chaired by **Al dela Cruz**. Subsequent Chairpersons were **Adjie Retodo, Rey Coquia, Diony Gamoso, Vic Revecho, Myrla Raymundo, Conrad Alano, Rem Declines, Rose Santos, Oscar Tolentino, Fe Quinto, Bayani Santos and Nimia Renovilla**.

Presently, **Cora Pediglorio** chairs the board, which name was changed to Secretariat. The Secretariat is composed of the Lay Director, School of Leaders Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Pre-Cursillo Chairperson, Cursillo Proper Chairperson, Postcursillo Chairperson, Newsletter Editor, the Spiritual Director and the team representatives that meet once a month. **Deacon Steve Budnik** is the present Spiritual Advisor.

The community holds its annual Friendship Dance, the annual Cursillo Picnic, Halloween and Christmas party to enjoy the company of the new and “old” or “seasoned” Cursillistas.

The monthly publication of the “Cursillo Newsletter” keeps the community informed of significant events in the Cursillo Environment and in the Diocese of Oakland. **Myrla Raymundo** was Editor of the “Cursillo Newsletter” for several years followed by **Carmen Revecho**, who renamed the newsletter as “Mariposa.” Other Editors who followed were **Rose Gamozo, Noe Tuazon, Tim Pedrosa, Mike Isidro, Alissa Bancil, and Oscar Tolentino** and presently, back to **Myrla Raymundo**.

One of the community’s enjoyable apostolic actions started when a Filipino Singing group at an “Anglo” cursillo were practicing and missed the early morning Mananita. The RECTOR instead invited them to serenade the Cursillo at breakfast. It was so enthusiastically received and since then the Filipinos have continued this breakfast serenade tradition, forging an affectionate bond with the Anglo and the Hispanic communities. The Filipino Cursillo goes on.

SCHOOL OF LEADERS (SOL) CORNER



Sis. Penny de Leon
Chairperson, School of Leaders

Oh Loving and Generous God. You call us by name and ask us to follow You. This is His request to follow Him in spreading the good news. Faith without actions is dead. How can the Cursillo Movement share this concept or mentality that we, Cursillistas, are members of a movement that can totally share ourselves to inspire others.

SOL can develop the core leaders by coming together to pray, study and work to build a Service Community. We are servant leaders. This is a core group of Cursillo leaders who with commitment have chosen to serve within the movement, as their apostolic vocation.

What does leaders do? Leaders influence the thoughts and actions of others. Leaders guide, orient and direct to attain goals. With this in mind leaders have natural qualities to be able to carry on the vision of the movement. They are the following:

- Spirit of initiative
- Ability to take a risk
- Has sense of responsibility
- Has personal authenticity
- Generous
- Strive to continuously develop self

Let us all remember what was said...being a Cursillo leader is *a vocation-a calling from God*. The Lord Himself invites us to live out our vocation and sharing this commitment as member of the School of Leader is a faith journey. Let us all go forward...please join me in sharing the good news.

God is Love, He is Merciful. De Colores!

Sis. Penny de Leon
Chairperson, School of Leaders

LAY DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Sis. Cora Pediglorio

Lay Director

March 29th, 2011 signaled another milestone in the Filipino Cursillo Community. *Jeremiah 29:11* “*For I know the plans I have for you,*” declares the Lord, “*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*”

The scripture passage inspires me because it gives hope and a future to our beloved FCC. As your newly-elected Lay Director, I am grateful and thankful to our loving God for having given me the opportunity to be serving our Community and our brothers and sisters in Christ. We welcome our new set of officers, whose excitement and motivation to serve our FCC family the best they could, is very encouraging.

To the outgoing officers, the community salutes them for a job well done. We truly appreciate all their hard work, patience and perseverance.

We are all servants of the Lord, and we will continue with the work in our community.

For the two weekend Cursillo Retreats in September and October, kindly offer prayers and give our full support to the team of Sis. Annie Villarente, Rectora, Cursillo #83, and to the team of Bro. Edwin Badua, Rector, Cursillo #84. Prayers are very powerful – they give us strength and peace in our hearts.

We have upcoming activities that we encourage you to participate in:

- ◆ Grand Ultreya [Diocese of Sacramento] – Aug. 20th
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Fairfield, CA

Please continue to attend our School of Leaders and our monthly Ultreyas. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

We have a big task ahead of us: some will be easy, some will be difficult. However, I believe that with the combined help of all the officers and team representatives, our goals will be realized. We will always turn to God for guidance and direction, and with us communicating with one another, we will move forward with optimism and vision. As we walk the path of God's purpose in our lives, as Cursillistas, let us keep our hearts wide open to receiving God's grace each day. - **Sis. Cora Pediglorio, Lay Director**

REPORTS FROM CHAIRPERSONS

Pre-Cursillo Chairperson Sis. Norma Acaba

There will be a SPONSORS WORKSHOP on July 9, 2011, 4:15 pm to 6:00 pm at the St. Francis Parish Hall, Christ the Light.

Post Cursillo Chairperson Sis. Annie Villarente

There are two new FCC Cursillo Teams:

- a) Our Lady of Fatima – Team Rep Sis. Clarita Perez
- b) Our Mother of Perpetual help – Team Rep Sis. Josie Herrera

School of Leaders Chairperson Sis. Penny de Leon

- a. School of Leaders met on May 16, 2011 with 13 Cursillo brothers and sisters in attendance.
- b. It was reaffirmed by the 13 members present that membership to the School of Leaders will consist of the Chairpersons of the 3 Committees of the Cursillo (pre, 3 day and post) and commitment from each team representative.
- c. It is to be brought up to the next team rep meeting the responsibilities of the Team Reps from the By Laws and the commitment to the School of Leaders and the term of service.
- d. The curriculum will be structured to pattern what is from the National Cursillo Center and enrollment will be necessary to attend the classes.
- e. Sis. Cora and I will coordinate on how to secure “How to Program a School of Leaders” booklet so we all can purchase one to be our resource guide and the encouragement for all to have a copy of the Leaders Manual.
- f. The coordination and solicitation of the SOL speakers will be my responsibility with the feedback from all the teams. I will seek each team’s assistance and recommendation for Cursillo graduate priests and deacons for the Doctrinal part of the SOL.
- g. There was also a recommendation from Deacon Steve with positive feedback from the team present of combining the SOL and the Team Reps Meeting on a single evening. This will be presented to the next Team Meeting as part of the SOL topic.
- h. Cursillo Leadership Workshop, reserved by Bro. Willie Villarente at St. Raymond, will be held on February 17, 18 and 19, 2012.

HOW TALL IS YOUR FENCE by Jess Centeno



Jimmy lives on a low, flat land surrounded by a green, verdant field with a glen or two. A deer family usually roams around that gives allure to a serene open space and tranquil weather. On top of a hill that is surrounded by fruit trees and magnificently colored flowers resides a nameless, old man who owns the fields as far as the eyes can see. He has a large fountain where sprinkles are mimicked whenever gentle breeze caress. White doves would flutter above the hill from time to time and sometimes a rainbow would frame the landscape. Jimmy had always longed to see the mysteries of the hill.

One day Jimmy went to a store to buy a 50c candy bar and when he gave the cashier a one dollar bill, he received \$19.50 back. He went home happy for his undeserved bounty not knowing that the cashier was fired for her mistake. When he woke up the following morning, to his surprise a four foot high fence sprung around his house not so much as to prevent anyone from getting in but to prevent him from getting out to the field. Jimmy was designated as the administrator of a small family estate by his father before he passed away with the instruction that he conserves the estate for his and his two brothers' benefit. Because of his penchant for fast and easy life, Jimmy needed more and more money and so he decided to sell his father's estate without sharing with his brothers any part of the proceeds. As if by magic, the fence around his house rose to seven feet high making him unable to enjoy the sights and sounds of his surroundings that were supposed to be free. By then Jimmy was lost and incapable of finding his straight path. He thought that everyone was against him and in a spat of anger and dispute as to who was ahead of the line to buy a movie ticket, he shot the man dead. Consequently, the fence was raised to eleven feet denying him any access to the field, reaching the hill or breathing the fresh air from the open space.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, how tall is your fence? Whenever you are lost, do you wish to be found? Do you distance yourself from God's fountain of grace? If you are wronged are you ready to wash and kiss the wrongdoer's feet or do you demand retribution? Many times it is not easy to accept the cross put on our shoulders but if we can only learn not merely to accept but to embrace the will of God with every beat of our loving heart, we would be ready to be called the sons or daughters of him who had given up his life that we may live. A piece of metal is just a piece of metal until it is put through the crucibles of fire, hammered and cut that it becomes a beautiful ornament. The words "carry your cross and follow me" are not just sadistic or passé words but a promise of a blessed and everlasting life. Are you ready to be molded and to fulfill whatever he has in store for you?

The Essence of True Servant Leadership by Bro. Vic Ramos



Part I

(Condensed from Chapter 3: Humility and Service, "Whom Shall I send? Discerning the Will of God.")

I wonder how many among us here in FCC, those who profess to serve as Cursillo leaders, have actually asked themselves these questions: What constitute genuine servant leadership? How do I know if I am a true and authentic servant leader of the Lord, working to promote His mission in His Church? We all know that we need leaders who are willing to set the standard for Christian service to the Cursillo, the Church and the world.

In the person of Jesus, we find the model of service and humility for all who would answer God's call. At His baptism, He received His calling and mission from the Father. His was a special calling. Jesus was not only called to be a prophet and teacher, but the Messiah and Lord. This must have prompted the Lord not to immediately embark on His public ministry but went to the desert to pray and to discern what this great call would mean. Surrounding the call to be a Messiah had to include questions about

authority, leadership and power. Jesus was not only called to be a Messiah, but at the same time was called as the servant of God. Somehow Jesus had to reconcile the power and majesty of being a Messiah with the need to be the humble servant of God at the same time. ²

In the desert Jesus came to terms with something that all leaders must eventually reckon with: the danger of authority is that it comes with the temptation of ambition. He realized that the first thing He must do is to empty Himself of all pride and ambition. Otherwise, it would be impossible to truly be God's servant. Dr. Peck speaks about how the temptation to ambition is present for anyone in a leadership role of any kind, whether a religious or a secular leader. This is rather tricky. Those who have a vocation to power are naturally ambitious people. God would not call someone to leadership without giving him at least taste for power.³ He does so because He sees these special gifts leaders have that can allow them to do the Lord's evangelizing work. Unfortunately, if these gifts are not properly used, the "power" given can work against God's purpose. "Defining ambition as the taste for power for oneself, for one's own sake, the manager (secular leader) must then strip away until all that is left is the thirst to be of service to others. Only then will the manager have become a true servant leader."⁴ If this is true of a leader in the secular world, how much more true must it be of a leader who is called to serve the Lord. There is a lesson here for all who accept the call to discipleship. Too often we see power and authority based on "who calls the shots." Remember, however, the greater the power, the greater the call to service. That is why the Vatican II documents remind us that even the Magisterium, the teaching office of the Church is not above all – the Church is the servant of the Gospel...this Magisterium is not superior to the Word of God, but is its servant.⁶ If we are called to serve the Curia through the School of Leaders, that is not a "higher" calling, but a commitment to more service. To serve in the Secretariat is not a "higher" position of power, but a call to more commitment and more service. The Lay Director and Spiritual Director are not in a "higher" or more exalted position, but simply more of a servant than the rest.

Jesus shows us that any disciple who follows Him must empty their very self.⁷ This is not to suggest that we do not need affirmation sometimes in our ministry, but there is a difference between the human need to be affirmed and the desire for recognition, ambition and power. We all need some support for our own self-esteem. In the end, however, all that matters is that we serve the Lord faithfully and joyfully. The rewards that follow are beyond measure.

DE COLORES

Footnotes:

2. M. Scott Peck, *A World WAITING TO BE BORN: Civility Rediscovered*

3. Peck, op., cit

4. Ibid

5. Phlippians 2:6 – 11

6. Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, #10

7. Peck, op., cit

Women's and Men's Cursillo Report:



Sis. Annie Villarente, Rectora

Women's Cursillo #83

September 1 – 4, 2011 St. Francis de Sales Retreat Center in Aptos, California

Vice-Rectoras

Piety - Sis. Temi Garcia, OLHR

Study – Sis. Carmie Bernardo, Chosen Flock

Action – Sis. Nilda Flores, St. Mary's

Rectora Under Study – Sis. Thelma del Fierro



Bro. Edwin Badua, Rector

Men's Cursillo #84

October 20 – 23, 2011 at St. Francis Retreat Center in Aptos, California

Vice Rectors

Piety – Bro. Tim Garcia, Back up Bro. Michael Dandan

Study – Bro. Celso Perez, Back up Bro. Alex Caragay

Action – Bro. Alex Nono, Back up Bro. Jimmy Ochang

Rector Under Study – Bro. Anito Acaba

REPORT FROM THE ULTREYA COORDINATORS



Neriza Nieto Sis. Doris Sunga

The Ultreya is a once a month traditional activity of the Filipino Cursillo Community that we want to continue for our spiritual enrichment.

The June 11th, 2011 Ultreya was hosted by the Divine Mercy and Fremont Teams. Bro. Alex Caragay emceed the program with newest Cursillista Bro. Billy Dimalanta of the Divine Mercy Team as the main speaker. Closing was done by Bro. Jimmy Ochang.

Out next scheduled Ultreyas are: July 9, August 13, September 10, October 29 and November 5. The December Ultreya will be announced later.

secretariat Report:



Sis. Cora Pediglorio, Lay Director

- a. Attended April 8 – 10, 2011 Ryan Pastoral Center in Fresno, CA.
- b. Responded to Sis. Melga Rodriguez' letter on April 18, 2011
- c. Approved the FCC Bylaws.
- d. Start visiting the Group Reunion Teams.
- e. Attended the San Damiano Retreat "Suffering-The Path to Holiness" last June 4, 2011.
- f. 21st National Cursillo Encounter on July 28 – July 31, 2011. St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX
- g. Grand Ultreya, Diocese of Sacramento, August 20, 2011
- h. Region XI Encounter, Fresno, CA – September 30 – October 2, 2011
- i. Ad Hoc Committee on Fundraising – Chairperson, Bro. Jess Centavo
- j. Voluntary Love Offering to FCC (ongoing)

**The Filipino Cursillo Community
Diocese of Oakland
Secretariat**

Spiritual Adviser: Deacon Steve Budnik

Officers

(Effective March 30, 2011 –June 30,
2012)

Lay Director: Cora Pediglorio

(Effective March 30, 2011 –June 30,
2014)

Secretary: Kathrina Parungao

Treasurer: Editha Guevarra

Chairpersons

School of leaders: Penny de Leon

Pre-Cursillo: Norma Acaba

3-Day Cursillo: Sheila Ulgado

Post-Cursillo: Annie Villarente

Newsletter: Myrlla Raymundo
Through June 30, 2012

FCC Events Schedule

7:00 PM Secretariat Meeting
First Tuesday of the Month
Cathedral of Christ the Light

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm Ultreya,
Second Saturday of the Month
Cathedral of Christ the Light

7:00 PM Team Reps Meeting
Second Tuesday of the Month
Cathedral of Christ the Light

7:00 PM School of Leaders
Third Monday of the Month
Cathedral of Christ the Light

**PAST LAY DIRECTORS OF THE
FILIPINO CURSILLO
COMMUNITY**

We salute the following brothers and sisters who worked hard to lead the activities of the Filipino Cursillo Community in the past years. We thank them for their noteworthy services.

Al dela Cruz - ?

Rey Coquia - ?

Diony Gamozo – 1983 - 1986

Vic Revecho – 1986 - 1988

Myrlla Raymundo – 1988 - 1990

Conrad Alano – 1990 - 1994

Rem Declines – 1994 - 1996

Rose Santos – 1996 - 1998

Oscar Tolentino – 1998 - 2000

Fe Quinto – 2000 - 2006

Bayani Santos – 2006 - 2009

Nimia Renovilla – 2009 - 2011

Cora Pediglorio – 2011 – 2012

Mariposa Newsletter

Editor: **Sis. Myrlla Raymundo, MBA**



Want to help the Editor? Send articles to ligfinio.raymundo@sbcglobal.net. Letters and articles should be limited to 300 words and are subject to editing.

